

REMARKS

The claims are being amended so that all the claims will require the presence of an amount of polymeric cationic surfactant based on polyquaternary ammonium salt. Hitherto, this has been an optional ingredient in the claimed compositions and methods of use and the foregoing amendment is intended to require the presence of a certain amount of this ingredient. The written description does not specify any minimum amount but, in the first paragraph of page 19, it is stated that the presence of this ingredient is "particularly desirable". The language "an amount of up to 3% weight" is intended to require the presence of a sufficient amount of this ingredient to provide the useful soil suspending benefit referred to at page 19, line 13.

Support for the specific cationic polymeric polyquaternary salt recited in duly presented claim 19 is in the specification at page 19, line 8.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action the examiner continues to reject all of the claims in this application as unpatentable over Richter U.S. Patent No. 5,728,667. The Examiner notes, however, that the Richter reference "fails to teach a polymeric cationic surfactant based on a polyquaternary ammonium salt" but also observes – correctly – that the independent claims recite this ingredient as optional. In the foregoing amendment, claims 7, 15 and 17 are amended so as to require the presence of an amount of this polymeric cationic surfactant. Thus, it is no longer an optional ingredient. Since the Richter reference does not disclose this ingredient, it is submitted that Applicants' claims, as now amended, would not have been obvious over Richter.

Claim 18 has been cancelled because it is essentially duplicate of claim 16. The cancellation of claim 18 is not intended to limit in any way the scope of Applicants' claimed invention.

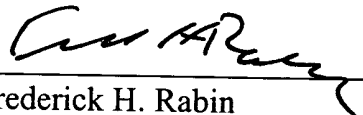
Applicant : Robert Zhong LU et al.
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In view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims now in this application are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Frederick H. Rabin
Reg. No. 24,488

Fish & Richardson P.C.
45 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 2800
New York, New York 10111
Telephone: (212) 765-5070
Facsimile: (212) 258-2291